

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 5 1 (previously presented): An output circuit comprising:
 an output port electrically connected to an output cable in a detachable
 manner;
 a signal circuit electrically connected to the output port for providing a signal
 current to the output port; and
10 a decision module comprising:
 a comparator electrically connected to the output port for comparing
 whether the signal voltage of the output port is larger than a
 predetermined detecting threshold when the decision module
 determines that the output port is not electrically connected to the
15 output cable, and for determining whether the output port is
 electrically re-connected to an output cable according to the
 comparison result of the comparator; and
 an amplifier electrically connected between the output port and the
 comparator for amplifying the signal voltage of output port when
20 the decision module determines that the output port is not
 electrically connected to the output cable, wherein the comparator
 compares whether the amplified signal voltage of output port is
 larger than the detecting threshold.
- 25 2 (original): The output circuit of claim 1 wherein the decision module
 comprises a comparator for comparing whether the signal voltage
 of the output port is larger than a predetermined signal threshold
 and the comparison result of the comparator determines whether
 the output port is electrically connected to the output cable.

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3 (original): The output circuit of claim 2 wherein the decision module determines that the output port is not electrically connected to the output cable if the signal voltage of the output port is larger than the signal threshold.

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4-5 (cancelled)

6 (currently amended): A method for detecting whether an output port of a circuit is electrically connected to an output cable, the method comprising:

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(a) receiving a signal from the output port;

(b) determining whether the output port is electrically connected to the output cable according to a signal voltage of output port;

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(c) operating the circuit in a normal mode when it is determined that the output port is electrically connected to the output cable; [[and]]

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(d) operating the circuit in a power-saving mode and providing a low power detecting signal to the output port when it is determined that the output port is not electrically connected to the output cable; and

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(e) amplifying the signal voltage of the output port when the circuit is operating in the power-saving mode, and comparing whether the amplified signal voltage of the output port is larger than a predetermined detecting threshold, then determining whether the output port is electrically connected to the output cable according to the comparison result.

30 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 6 wherein the step (b)

comprises determining whether the output port is electrically
connected to the output cable is according to whether the signal
voltage of the output port is larger than a predetermined signal
threshold.

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8 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein it is determined that the
output port is not electrically connected to the output cable when
the signal voltage of the output port is larger than the signal
threshold.

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9-10 (cancelled)

11 (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 10~~ claim 6 wherein it is
determined that the output port is not electrically re-connected to
the output cable when the signal voltage of the output port is less
than the detecting threshold.

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12 (cancelled)

13 (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 10~~ claim 6 further
comprising providing an output signal to the output port when it is
determined that the output port is electrically re-connected to an
output cable, and comparing whether the signal voltage of the
output port is larger than a predetermined detecting threshold,
then determining whether the output port is electrically connected
to the output cable according to the comparison result.

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14 (currently amended): An output circuit comprising:
an output port for electrically connecting to an output cable in a
detachable manner;

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a signal circuit for providing a signal current to the output port;
and
a decision module for electrically connecting to the output port and
determining whether the output port is electrically connected to the output
5 cable according to a signal voltage of the output port, the decision module
comprising:
a control circuit for operating the signal circuit in a normal mode when it is
determined that the output port is electrically connected to the output
cable, and for operating the signal circuit in a power-saving mode when it
10 is determined that the output port is not electrically connected to the
output cable;
a comparator for comparing whether the signal voltage of the
output port is larger than a predetermined detecting
threshold when the signal circuit is operating in the
15 power-saving mode, the decision module determining
whether the output port is re-connected to an output
cable according to the comparison result of the
comparator; and
an amplifier electrically connected between the output port
20 and the comparator, wherein when the signal circuit is
operating in the power-saving mode, the amplifier
amplifies the signal voltage of the output port, and the
comparator compares whether the amplified signal
voltage of the output port is larger than the detecting
25 threshold.

15 (previously presented): The output circuit of claim 14 wherein the
decision module comprises a comparator for comparing whether
the signal voltage of the output port is larger than a predetermined
30 signal threshold and the decision module determines whether the

output port is electrically connected to the output cable according to the comparison result of the comparator.

16-17 (cancelled)

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18 (currently amended): The output circuit of ~~claim 16~~ claim 14 further comprising:

a storing circuit for providing a data signal and reading the data on an optical disc to generate the data signal.

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